

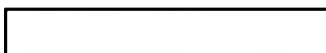
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1. PINEAU SUGGESTS TRIPARTITE APPEAL TO USSR ON NEAR EAST ARMS

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French foreign minister Pineau told Ambassador Dillon on 19 March he felt there should be a French-British-American ministerial meeting in the near future to consider the Near East arms race. Pineau wondered if the time had not come for the three Western foreign ministers to make a joint public appeal to the Soviet Union to agree to end the arms race, although he expressed himself as opposed to discussing a Near East "settlement" with the USSR.

Pineau indicated his thinking had been spurred by figures he had seen in Cairo on the size of the Soviet arms program for Egypt. He said an additional 200 MIG's were scheduled to follow the first 200 now being delivered.

Comment

The need to reach some kind of agreement on Near Eastern matters has been a recurrent note in French diplomacy since the consummation of Egypt's arms deal with the Soviet bloc last fall. Moscow probably would welcome an approach from the tripartite powers, but it is unlikely that the USSR would agree to limit discussion to the arms problem.

The Israeli ambassador to the United States told Ambassador Lodge on 19 March that Egypt had 110 MIG's and "would soon have 200 more."



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2. GEORGIAN PAPER SCORES VIOLATIONS OF SOCIALIST ORDER

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The American embassy in Moscow reports that an editorial in the 15 March issue of the Georgian newspaper Zarya Vostoka, entitled "Strengthen Socialist Legality," contains what appears to be

a veiled reference to the recent disorders in Tbilisi. Regarding nationalism, the editorial asserts that restrictions on privileges for Soviet citizens on the basis of their race or nationality, "as well as any preaching of racial or national exclusiveness, hatreds and scorn, is punished by law." The editorial admits that some Georgian youth are guilty of "immoral acts" and calls on the public to "unmask any sort of provocateurs, hooligans and hostile elements."

The embassy comments that the editorial appears to confirm the original report of the disorders, as well as speculation that youth and nationalism were the two main ingredients.

Comment

The Georgians have a tradition of extreme nationalism, of which Stalin has become a symbol. News of Khrushchev's attack on Stalin at the 20th Party Congress appears to have produced the demonstrations by nationalistic youth.

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3. JAPANESE-RUSSIAN PEACE TREATY TALKS SUSPENDED INDEFINITELY

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The Japanese-Soviet peace treaty talks in London have reportedly reached an impasse over the question of the disposition of former Japanese territories, and have been indefinitely suspended. The USSR had agreed to the unconditional return of the Habomai and Shikotan Islands, but has consistently rejected Japan's demand that the two southernmost islands in the Kurils chain, Kunashiri and Etorufu, also be restored to Japan, with the northern Kurils and Sakhalin to be disposed of at an international conference.

Continuing strong domestic support for Japan's position and greater political stability resulting from the conservative unification apparently have encouraged Tokyo to suspend the talks rather than concede vital Japanese interests. Soviet retaliatory moves against Japanese fishing in waters north of Japan, however, may cause Japanese fishing interests to bring considerable pressure for the concessions necessary for a settlement with Moscow.

It is probable that the USSR will not retreat from its present position but will prefer to wait in the hope that developments in the Japanese domestic scene will provide conditions favorable for the acceptance of the Soviet terms. Since the Japanese refused the major Soviet proposal in January to establish diplomatic relations, the USSR has displayed a marked indifference toward concluding the talks during this round.

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5. YUGOSLAVS CONSIDER WAY CLEAR FOR RELATIONS WITH ITALIAN COMMUNISTS

Yugoslav readiness to establish closer relations with other Communist parties may now extend to those in non-Orbit nations.

A speech by Italian Communist Party (PCI) leader Palmiro Togliatti on 13 March to the PCI central committee is

being construed by Yugoslavs as an "apology" for their 1948 expulsion from the Cominform. A Yugoslav press officer commented that there would now be nothing inconsistent in "closer" relations between the Yugoslav and Italian Communist Parties. A high Yugoslav Foreign Ministry official called Togliatti's statement extremely interesting and said in some ways it "went even further than Mikoyan."

Togliatti had told his central committee on 13 March that the Cominform had erred in expelling Tito in 1948 without examining the situation that existed in Yugoslavia and taking into account the reason for Belgrade's different attitude. Recognizing that Communist parties are traveling along different roads, he called for an exchange of experiences to develop mutual benefits.

Yugoslav relations with left-wing groups in Italy have centered primarily around the dissident Communist Cucchi-Magnani (USI) group and, to a lesser extent, the anti-Communist Democratic Socialist Party (PSDI), with no apparent attention to the PCI.

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